

**DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
LEPC REPORT
(Drafted 12 February 2007)**

Public Safety Communications: Frank Ford (Communications Coordinator) reports that on the VHF enhancement/coverage improvement side, we have added a new repeater in the south eastern portion of the county and conducted a number of repairs and refinements of the previously existing sites. Lone Mountain is on the verge of installation of its new repeater, which will give us the capability to communicate in the Big Sky area for the first time ever. Reprogramming of the existing county LMR inventory and with it a realignment of the frequency assignments so that we can make full use of our new enhancements remains a problem, however, and we are working on that.

Although the Madison County microwave sites are no longer above the current IM funding line, we are continuing to work on site acquisition matters so that we will be in position to begin construction just as soon as the state project allocates funding to them. Although a number of administrative matters remain to be worked out, BLM is on the verge of signing MOUs relating to two of the three sites and the private developer that owns Lone Peak, Moonlight Basin, has verbally agreed to provide a site that looks very good.

We have provided to Northrop Grumman and IM, our running list of requirements for LMR radios. Our assumption is that this will suffice to replace the inventory IM had formerly requested, as agreed upon at our January SCMIC meeting.

Big Sky: The final report of the Big Sky Public Safety Planning Study undertaken by Firescope Mid-America was presented to the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, 19 December, 2006.

Concerning the Emergency Management and Communications, the Madison County Office of Emergency Management (MOEM) should include citizen stakeholder and emergency services providers from the Big Sky area in all aspects of the disaster planning function. This will include exercising of plans and participation in mandated committees such as the LEPC required by SARA Title III act. The MOEM should act as a facilitator to insure adequate and functional mutual aid agreements are in place among the appropriate agencies providing emergency services. This is to include pandemic and terrorism situations as well as, common identified hazards.

Effective and reliable communications need to be established between the emergency service providers, the Madison County Sheriff's office and the Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Frank Ford is working in this area.

During major emergencies or disaster situations that are isolated to the Big Sky area, Madison County should be represented in any EOC operation established in the Big Sky Community in order to provide resources and assist in the management of the situation with NIMS qualified personnel.

CCC/CERT: Melinda Tichenor will report on the activity of CCC and CERT training. A business plan is being developed to present to the Commissioners for further continuation of the CERT program. The DHS grant was finalized by Melinda and was hand delivered to Sheri Lanz's office on the 2nd of February. It was commented that Melinda did a wonderful job on the final report.

Unassigned Fire Districts: The Director of EM held a meeting with the Commissioners and heads of all fire districts, BLM, Forestry, DNRC and Heritage Commission, on 9 February, 2007 to discuss unassigned fire districts and how to attach the problem. Several ideas have been set forth;

one is to divide up the unassigned areas by water shed and access between the remaining districts using the MCA regulations of acquiring 50% or more approval by petition. Also discussed was creating a county wide fire district using the existing fire stations as out stations and providing paid positions for fire chiefs of these districts/stations. Another is assessing and creating a fire service area fee for the unassigned areas. David Hamilton will provide Chris Mumme with plans from counties that have taken this road, Broadwater for County fire department and Teton for fire service area fees.

Wild land/urban interface grant (WUI): The Director of EM visited with Headwaters RC&D Judy Tilman, Chris Town, Brian Lorengo and Trina Mullen to discuss the WUI grant and what can be done. Toll Mountain site was visited and I got a good look at what can be done. It was decided to contact Moonlight Basin to see if there is any interest in the program. Fortunately, Moonlight has just finished their Fire Management Operation Guide in the spirit of the Big Sky Public Safety Plan and a meeting is set for March 2nd to begin setting plans to service the Moonlight basin area with the WUI. It is thought that once the money is spent on this and a waiting list is developed, we can acquire more money to fund this WUI. Plans are made to use the Moonlight Basin as a showplace for advertising to get the word out to the entire county.

School Emergency Radios: Frank Ford traveled to Great Falls and picked up the radios. They will be installed as soon as the system is up and ready.

Disaster and Emergency Plan: We are still in the process on completing the remaining annexes to the County Disaster and Emergency Plan. The Flooding and Wild Land Fires is not complete but in the process thereof.

Communications Coordinator: Frank is now the Communications Coordinator and is on contract until July of 2007.

Chairman of LEPC: Joe Husar will not be able to attend the LEPC meeting this 15th of February, 2007. John Bancroft, the newly appointed LEPC Vice-Chairman will be there to fill in.

Christopher W Mumme
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Madison County